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GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK

From 1777 to 1920

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GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK

From 1777 to 1920

1 and 3. GEORGE CLINTON (Anti-Fed.)

July, 1777–June, 1795

July, 1801–June, 1804

(Three-year terms)

Born in Ulster county, July 26, 1739

Died at Washington, April 30, 1812

- 1755 Ran away from home to fight French
Studied law in New York City — Admitted to bar
Clerk of Common Pleas, Ulster county
- 1765 Member of Colonial Legislature
- 1775–76 Member second Continental Congress
Voted for Declaration of Independence
Lieutenant of Rangers in expedition against Fort
Frontenac
- 1777 Brigadier-General of Militia
Elected Provincial Governor
- 1780–83–86–89–92–1801 Re-elected Governor
Suggested Erie Canal
- 1778 President of convention which ratified Federal
constitution
- 1780 Drove back savages in Mohawk valley
- 1792 Candidate of new republican party for Vice-
President (defeated)
- 1804–08 Vice-President
Opponents: 1777 Unopposed
1780 Unopposed
1783 Phillip Schuyler
1786 Unopposed
1789 Robert Yates
1792 John Jay (Fed.)
1801 Stephen Van Rensselaer (Fed.)

2. JOHN JAY (Fed.)

July 17, 1795–June, 1801

(Three-year terms)

Born in New York, December 12, 1745

Died, Westchester county, May 17, 1829

- 1764 Graduated Columbia (Kings) College
- 1774–77 Member Continental Congress — Wrote address to
Great Britain which Thomas Jefferson declared
a “production of the first pen in America”
Moved adoption of Declaration of Independence
- 1777 Drafted first Constitution of N. Y. State, which re-
mained the organic law until convention of
1822—Proclaimed at Kingston—not submitted
to people
- 1778 Minister to Spain
Chief Justice of New York
- 1778–79 President Continental Congress
- 1783 Member of Peace Commission to negotiate treaties
with foreign nations
- 1784 Peace Commissioner — Signed treaty of Paris
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- 1789 First Chief Justice of United States
- 1792 Defeated for Governor
- 1794 Envoy Extraordinary to Great Britain to avert war
- 1795 Elected Governor
- 1798 Re-elected Governor
- 1799 Signed bill abolishing slavery in State
- 1801 Declined renomination for Governor and appoint-
ment as Chief Justice
Opponents: 1795 Robert Yates (Anti-Fed.)
1798 Robert R. Livingston (Rep.)

4. MORGAN LEWIS (Rep.)

July, 1804–June, 1807

Born, New York, October 16, 1754

Died, New York, April 7, 1844

1773 Graduated Princeton College

1775 Revolutionary soldier

1776 Quartermaster-General

1777 Present at Burgoyne's surrender

1783 Member of Assembly

1791 Attorney-General

1801 Chief Justice Supreme Court

1804–07 Governor

Founded common school fund

1813 Major-General — In command at Sacketts Harbor
and Clayton

Expedition against Montreal

Commanded forces in defense of New York

1811–14 State Senator

1821 Grand Master of Masons

Opponent: Aaron Burr (Fed.)

5. DANIEL D. TOMPKINS (Rep.)

July, 1807–February, 1817

(Three-year terms)

Born, Westchester county, June 21, 1774

Died, Staten Island, June 11, 1825

1795 Graduated from Columbia College

Lawyer

1801 Member of Constitutional Convention

1803 Member of Assembly

1805 March to July — Representative in Congress
(resigned)

1804–07 Associate Justice Supreme Court

1807–15 Governor — four terms

Advocated Erie canal

Law passed abolishing slavery in New York after
July 1, 1827

1812 Prorogued Legislature

1817 Resigned office of Governor to become Vice-
President

1817–21 Vice-President

1821 Offered Secretary of State by President Madison
(declined)

Opponents: 1807 Morgan Lewis (Fed.)

1810 Jonas Platt (Fed.)

1813 Stephen Van Rensselaer (Fed.)

1816 Rufus King (Fed.)

NOTE:—Governor Tompkins had no middle name. The "D" was added merely to distinguish him from another Daniel Tompkins who attended the same school or college. This fact was given by Governor Tompkins' granddaughter, Helene T. Tompkins of Somers, N. Y., to Bolton's History of Westchester County (page 233).

6. JOHN TAYLER (Acting Governor) (Rep.)

February, 1817–June, 1817

Born, New York, July 4, 1742

Died, Albany, April 19, 1829

1817 Became acting Governor on resignation of Governor
Tompkins

1760 Removed to Lake George and Oswego
Member Council between whites and Indians

1775 Commanded 1st Regiment, New York Troops

1776 Member Provincial Congress

1777 Member Council of Safety

1802–04 to 1810, 1811 to 1813 State Senator

1813–17 Lieutenant-Governor

1811 President pro tem. of Senate

7 and 9. DE WITT CLINTON (Rep. and Ind.)

July, 1817–December, 1822
January, 1825–February, 1828

(One three-year term)

(One two-year term)

(Two two-year terms)

Born, Little Britain, March 2, 1769

Died, Albany, February 11, 1828

1789 Graduated Columbia College

Admitted to bar

1790–96 Secretary of Gov. George Clinton

1794 Major of Artillery

1798 Member of Assembly

1798 to 1802, 1806 to 1817 State Senator

1801 Member Constitutional Convention

1802–03 United States Senator (resigned)

Opposed invasion of Louisiana

1803 to 1807, 1810 to 1814 Mayor New York City

1810 Explored route for Erie canal

1811–13 Lieutenant-Governor

1812 Defeated for President

1816 Canal Commissioner

1817–22, 1824–28 Governor

1820 Declined renomination

1825 Offered Minister to England by President Adams
(declined)

1826 Opened Erie canal

Opponents: 1817 Peter B. Porter (Fed.)

1820 Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)

1824 Samuel Young (Rep.)

1826 William B. Rochester (Rep.)

8. JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER YATES (Rep.)

1823–1824

Born, Schenectady, November 9, 1768

Died, Schenectady, March 19, 1837

Lawyer — One of the founders of Union College

1798 Mayor of Schenectady

1806–07–08 State Senator

1822 Governor

Opponent: Solomon Southwick (Ind.)

10. NATHANIEL PITCHER (Acting Governor) (Ind.)

February to December, 1828

Born, Litchfield, Conn., 1777
Died, Sandy Hill, May 25, 1836
1828 Became Governor on death of DeWitt Clinton
1806, 1815-17 Member of Assembly
1812 Surrogate of Washington county
1821 Member Constitutional Convention
1819-23, 1831-32 Representative in Congress
1826 Lieutenant-Governor

11. MARTIN VAN BUREN (Dem.)

January to March, 1829

Born, Kinderhook, December 5, 1782
Died, Kinderhook, July 24, 1862
1808-13 Surrogate of Columbia county
1813-20 State Senator
1815-19 Attorney-General
1821 Delegate to Constitutional Convention
1821-27 United States Senator
1828 Resigned as United States Senator
1828 Governor
1828 Resigned as Governor
1829-31 Secretary of State under Jackson
1831 Nominated Minister to Great Britain
Nomination rejected
1832-36 Vice-President
1836-40 President
1840 Defeated for re-election
1848 Anti-slavery candidate for President (defeated)
Opponents: Smith Thompson (Rep.)
Solomon Southwick (Ind.)

12. ENOS THOMPSON THROOP (Dem.)

March, 1829-December, 1832

Born, Johnstown, August 21, 1784
Died, Auburn, November 1, 1874
1829 Became Governor on resignation of Van Buren
1811 Clerk of Cayuga county
1815-16 Representative in Congress (resigned, 1816)
1823-27 Circuit Judge
1828 Lieutenant-Governor
1830 Governor — Refused renomination
1833-38 Naval Officer, New York
1838-42 Minister to Naples
Opponent: Francis Granger (Rep.)

13. WILLIAM LEARNED MARCY (Dem.)

1833-1838

Born, Massachusetts, December 12, 1786 (Three-year Terms)

Died, Ballston Springs, July 4, 1857

1808 Graduated Brown University

1810 Lieutenant New York Militia

1816 Recorder of Troy

Editor Troy Budget

1821 Adjutant-General

1823 Comptroller

1829 Associate Justice Supreme Court

1831-32 United States Senator (resigned)

Author of policy, "To the victor belongs the spoils."

1833-38 Governor

Advocated lateral canals

1838 Defeated for Governor

1839-42 Member Commission on Mexican Claims

1845-49 Secretary of War

1853-57 Secretary of State

Opponents: 1832 Francis Granger (Rep.)

1834 William H. Seward (Whig)

1836 Jesse Buel (Whig)

14. WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD (Whig)

1838-1841

(Two-year terms)

Born, Florida, Orange county, May 16, 1801

Died, Auburn, October 10, 1872

1820 Graduated Union College

1822 Admitted to bar

1823 Lawyer at Auburn

1831-34 State Senator

1834 Defeated for Governor

1838-41 Governor

Recommended abolition of capital punishment,
and return of fugitive slaves

1848 Delivered eulogy on John Quincy Adams in Legis-
lature

1849-61 United States Senator

Advocated abolition of slavery in District of
Columbia

Introduced bill for construction of Pacific railroad

Delivered orations on deaths of Clay and Webster

1859 Visited Europe

1861-69 Secretary of State

1865 Wounded by assassin

1867 Contracted for purchase of Alaska

1870 Made tour of the world

Opponents: 1838 William L. Marcy (Dem.)

1840 William C. Bouck (Dem.)

1842 Luther Bradish (Dem.)

15. WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER BOUCK (Dem.)

1843-1844

Born, Schoharie county, January 7, 1786
Died, Schoharie county, April 9, 1869
1812 Sheriff of Schoharie county
1814-15-16-18 Member of Assembly
1819 Colonel 18th Regiment Infantry
1820-22 State Senator
1821-40 Canal Commissioner
Advocated enlargement of State Canals
First canal boat on canal named for him
1840 Defeated for Governor
1842 Elected Governor
1846 Member Constitutional Convention
1846-48 Assistant United States Treasurer
Opponent: Luther Bradish (Whig)

16. SILAS WRIGHT (Dem.)

1845-1846

Born, Amherst, Mass., May 24, 1795
Died, Canton, August 27, 1847
1815 Graduated Middlebury College
1819 Admitted to bar
1821-24 Surrogate St. Lawrence county
1825-26 Postmaster of Canton
1824-27 State Senator
1829-30 Representative in Congress
1830-33 Comptroller (resigned)
1833-44 United States Senator
1844 Governor
1846 Defeated for Governor
Opponent: Millard Fillmore (Whig)

17. JOHN YOUNG (Whig)

1847-1848

Born, Chelsea, Vt., June 12, 1802
Died, New York, April 23, 1852
1825 Admitted to bar
1831 Elected to Assembly by Anti-Masonic party
Livingston County
1832-45-46 Member of Assembly
1836-37, 1841-43 Representative in Congress
1846 Elected Governor
1849 Assistant United States Treasurer
Opponent: Silas Wright (Dem.)

18. HAMILTON FISH (Whig)

1849-1850

Born, New York, August 3, 1808
Died, Garrisons, September 7, 1893
1827 Graduated Columbia College
1830 Admitted to bar
1834 Defeated for Assembly
1844 Representative in Congress
1846 Defeated for Governor
1847 Lieutenant-Governor
1849-50 Governor
1851-56 United States Senator
1869-77 Secretary of State
Opponents: John A. Dix (Dem.)
Reuben H. Walworth (Ind.)

19. WASHINGTON HUNT (Whig) 1851-1852

Born, Windham, Greene county, August 5, 1811
Died, New York, February 2, 1867
1834 Admitted to bar
1834 First judge Niagara county
1843-49 Representative in Congress
1849 Comptroller
1851-52 Governor
Recommended Agricultural College and Experimental Farm
1852 Defeated for Governor
1860 Declined nomination for Vice-President
Opponent: Horatio Seymour (Dem.)

20. HORATIO SEYMOUR (Dem.) 1853-1854
1863-1864

Born, Pompey, May 31, 1810
Died, Deerfield, February 12, 1886
Educated Hobart College — Military Academy, Conn.
1832 Admitted to bar (never practiced)
1835-39 Military Secretary to Governor Marcy
1842 Mayor of Utica
1842-44-45 Member of Assembly
1845 Speaker
1843 Defeated for Assembly by three votes
1850 Defeated for Governor
1852 Elected Governor
1853 Vetoed Prohibition bill
1854 Defeated for Governor
1857 Offered mission to Europe by Buchanan (declined)
1862 Elected Governor
1864 Defeated for Governor
1868 Defeated for President
Opponents: 1852 Washington Hunt (Whig)
1862 James S. Wadsworth (Rep.)

21. MYRON HOLLEY CLARK (Whig) 1855-1856

Born, Naples, N. Y., October 23, 1806
Died, Canandaigua, August 23, 1892
1837 Elected Sheriff of Ontario county
1850 Elected President of Canandaigua
1852 Elected State Senator
1854 Elected Governor by plurality of 305
Secured passage of Prohibition law
Approved law authorizing Albany bridge
1862 Appointed first Collector of Internal Revenue in his district
1874 Defeated for Governor
Opponents: Horatio Seymour (Dem.)
Daniel Ullman (K. N.)

22. JOHN ALSOP KING (Rep.)

1857-1858

Born, New York, January 3, 1788

Died, Jamaica, July 7, 1867

Admitted to bar

1812 Lieutenant of Cavalry

1819-20-21-38-40 Member of Assembly

1842 Secretary of legation to England

1849-50 Representative in Congress

1856 Elected Governor

Favored enlargement of Erie Canal and improvement of school system

1861 Member Peace Commission

1874-75 State Senator (resigned)

Opponents: Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)

Erastus Brooks (Am.)

23. EDWIN DENNISON MORGAN (Rep.)

1859-1862

Born, Massachusetts, February 8, 1811

Died, New York, February 14, 1883

1828 Grocer's clerk, Hartford

1836 Removed to New York (wholesale grocer)

1850-51-52-53 State Senator

Elected Governor

1860 Re-elected Governor

Known as War Governor

1863-69 United States Senator

1876 Defeated for Governor

1881 Offered Secretary of Treasury by President Arthur (declined)

Opponents: 1858 Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)

1860 William Kelly (Dem.)

24. REUBEN EATON FENTON (Rep.)

1865-1868

Born, Carroll, N. Y., July 4, 1819

Died, Jamestown, August 24, 1885

Educated in public schools

Lumber merchant

1843-46-52 Supervisor

1853-54, 1857-64 Representative in Congress (resigned)

1862 Colonel 162d Regiment, New York State Militia

1864 Elected Governor

1866 Re-elected Governor

1869-75 United States Senator

1878 Chairman Monetary Conference, Paris

Opponents: 1864 Horatio Seymour (Dem.)

1866 John T. Hoffman (Dem.)

25. JOHN THOMPSON HOFFMAN (Dem.)

1869-1872

Born, Sing Sing, January 10, 1828

Died, Germany, March 24, 1888

1846 Graduated Union College

1849 Admitted to bar (age 21)

1860-64 Recorder New York

1865-68 Mayor of New York

1866 Defeated for Governor

1868 Elected Governor

1870 Re-elected Governor

Opponents: 1868 John A. Griswold (Rep.)

1870 Stewart L. Woodford (Rep.)

26. JOHN ADAMS DIX (Rep.)

1873-1874

Born, New Hampshire, July 24, 1795
Died, New York, April 21, 1879
1812 Cadet
1813 Ensign in regiment sent to Canadian frontier by
New Hampshire
1814 Second Lieutenant, 21st New Hampshire Infantry
1820 Admitted to bar in Warburgh
1826 Special messenger to Copenhagen
1827 Stationed at Fortress Monroe
1828 Practiced law at Cooperstown
1830 Removed to Albany and appointed Adjutant-
General
1833-39 Secretary of State and Superintendent of Common
Schools
1840 Edited "Northern Light"
1842 Member of Assembly
1845-49 United States Senator
1848 Defeated for Governor
1853 Assistant Treasurer of New York City
1860 Postmaster of New York City
1861 January to March — Secretary of Treasury
Sent order, "If anyone attempts to haul down the
American flag, shoot him on the spot."
1861-65 Major-General
1863 In command Fortress Monroe
1866 Commander Department of East — Naval Officer
1866-69 Minister to France
1872 Elected Governor
1874 Defeated for re-election
Opponent: Francis Kernan (Dem.)

27. SAMUEL JONES TILDEN (Dem.)

1875-1876

Born, New Lebanon, February 9, 1814
Died, Greystone, August 4, 1885
1837 Graduated New York University
1839 Admitted to the bar
1846, 1872 Member of Assembly
1846, 1867 Member Constitutional Convention
1855 Defeated for Attorney-General
Founded State Bar Association
1874 Elected Governor
1876 Defeated for President
Opponent: John A. Dix (Rep.)

28. LUCIUS ROBINSON (Dem.)

1877-1879
(Three-year term)

Born, Windham, November 4, 1810
Died, Elmira, March 23, 1891
Educated in public schools and Delhi Academy
1832 Admitted to bar
1837 District-Attorney of Greene county
1843-47 Master in Chancery, New York City
1860 Member of Assembly
1861-65, 1875 Comptroller
1876 Elected Governor
1879 Defeated for Governor
Opponents: 1876 Edwin D. Morgan (Rep.)
1879 Alonzo B. Cornell (Rep.)

32. ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER (Dem.)

1892-1894
(Three-year term)

Born, Theresa, N. Y., August 7, 1835
Died, Long Island, May 12, 1899
Educated and taught in public schools
1853-59 Deputy Postmaster of Watertown
1860-69 In business in Watertown
1869 Took up residence in New York City
1882-83, 1889-90 Representative in Congress
1885 Nominated for Lieutenant-Governor (declined)
1891 Elected Governor
Opponent: J. Sloat Fassett (Rep.)

33. LEVI PARSONS MORTON (Rep.)

1895-1896

Born, Shoreham, Vermont, May 16, 1824
Educated public schools
1838-40 Clerk, Enfield, Mass.
1840-41 Teacher, Boscowan, N. H.
1845 In business in Hanover, N. H.
1850 In Boston
1854 Dry goods merchant, New York City
1863 Banking
1876 Defeated for Congress
1878 Commissioner to Paris Exposition
1879-81 Representative in Congress (resigned 1881)
1881 Offered Secretary of Navy by President Garfield
(declined)
1881 Appointed Minister to France
1885 Defeated for U. S. Senator
1887 Defeated for U. S. Senator
1889-93 Vice-President
1894 Elected Governor
Opponent: David B. Hill (Dem.)

34. FRANK SWETT BLACK (Rep.)

1897-1898

Born, Maine, March 8, 1853
Died, Troy, March 21, 1913
1871 Graduated academy, Maine
1875 Graduated Dartmouth College
1879 Admitted to bar, Troy
1895 March to January 7, 1897 — Representative in Congress
1896 Elected Governor
Opponent: Wilbur F. Porter (Dem.)

35. THEODORE ROOSEVELT (Rep.)

1899-1900

Born, New York, October 27, 1858
Died, Oyster Bay, January 6, 1919
1882-84 Member of Assembly
1886 Defeated for Mayor of New York City
1889-95 Civil Service Commissioner
1896-97 Police Commissioner, New York City (resigned)
1897-98 Assistant Secretary of Navy (resigned)
1898 Lieutenant-Colonel Rough Riders
1898 Elected Governor
1900 Elected Vice-President
1901 Became President on death of President McKinley
1904 Elected President
1912 Defeated for President
Opponent: Augustus A. Van Wyck

36. BENJAMIN BARKER ODELL (Rep.)

1901-1904

Born, Newburgh, January 14, 1854
1895-99 Representative in Congress
1900-02 Elected Governor
Opponents: 1900 John B. Stanchfield (Dem.)
1902 Bird S. Coler (Dem.)

37. FRANK WAYLAND HIGGINS (Rep.)

1905-1906

Born, Allegany county, August 18, 1856
Died, Olean, February 12, 1907
1893-1902 State Senator
1902 Elected Lieutenant-Governor
1904 Elected Governor
Opponent: D. Cady Herrick (Dem.)

38. CHARLES EVANS HUGHES (Rep.)

1907-October 6, 1910

Born, Glens Falls, April 11, 1862
1906 Counsel Insurance Investigation
Elected Governor
1908 Re-elected Governor (resigned 1910)
1910-16 Justice United States Supreme Court (resigned)
1916 Defeated for President
Opponents: 1906 William R. Hearst (Dem.)
1908 Lewis S. Chanler (Dem.)

39. HORACE WHITE (Acting Governor) (Rep.)

October 6, 1910
December 31, 1910

Born, Buffalo, October 7, 1865
Became Acting Governor on appointment of Gov. Hughes
as Justice of U. S. Supreme Court
1896-08 State Senator
1908 Elected Lieutenant-Governor

40. JOHN ALDEN DIX (Dem.)

1911-1912

Born, Glens Falls, December 25, 1860

1908 Defeated for Lieutenant-Governor

1910 Elected Governor

Opponent: Henry L. Stimson (Rep.)

41. WILLIAM SULZER (Dem.)

January 1, 1913–October 17, 1913

Born, New Jersey, March 18, 1863

1890–94 Member of Assembly

1894 Speaker of Assembly

1895–1912 Representative in Congress

1912 Elected Governor

October 17, 1913 Impeached

1914 Member of Assembly

Opponents: Job E. Hedges (Rep.)

Oscar S. Strauss (Prog.)

42. MARTIN HENRY GLYNN (Acting Governor) (Dem.)

October 17, 1913–January 1, 1915

Born, Kinderhook, September 27, 1871

1899–1901 Representative in Congress

1906–08 Comptroller

1912 Elected Lieutenant-Governor

1913 Assumed office of Governor on impeachment of
Governor Sulzer

43. CHARLES SEYMOUR WHITMAN (Rep.)

1915–1918

Born, Connecticut, August 28, 1868

1890 Graduated Amherst College

1894 Graduated New York University Law School

1902 Assistant Corporation Counsel, New York City

1907 Court of General Sessions

1908 Deputy Attorney-General to investigate election
frauds

1909 Elected District Attorney, New York City

1913 Re-elected District Attorney

1914 Elected Governor

1916 Re-elected Governor

1918 Defeated for Governor

Opponents: 1914 Martin H. Glynn (Dem.)

F. M. Davenport (Prog.)

1916 Samuel Seabury (Dem.)

1918 Alfred E. Smith (Dem.)

44. ALFRED EMANUEL SMITH (Dem.)

1919–

Born, New York, December 30, 1873

1904–15 Member of Assembly

1913 Speaker of Assembly

1915 Member Constitutional Convention

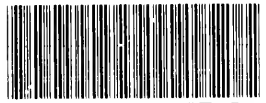
1915 Elected Sheriff of New York County

1917 Elected President Board of Aldermen, New York
City

1918 Elected Governor

Opponent: Charles S. Whitman (Rep.)

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